

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 20, 1998 LB 1108

trees. The local municipalities and counties and other public entities will have to pick up a huge amount of money to eventually deal with this, particularly in the area of pruning. It is a danger right now to not deal with these hanging limbs and those continue to be a threat to public safety, and that's been a great expense. The federal government has intervened and helped to a degree, providing for some assistance on tree repair, pruning, and removal, but they're stepping out, they're moving back, and the cities are going to have to step in and the state, I think, just as the federal government has a role to play in disasters, so does the state. When a part of our state is hit hard by a storm or disaster, the state of Nebraska should be there to help recover from that. And so, again, the proposal is a very modest one, \$200,000 is not much money. It's paltry in face of the devastation, but it will at least help to some degree in moving forward on the need to replace the trees that were lost. So I rise in support of the Beutler amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. It's ironic that we're talking about replanting trees and so on, and I remember 40 years ago about this time of the year, I was a young man, I worked for a nursery, and we were doing the planting at the old Lincoln Air Base, in the dependent quarters, and what a remarkable...what a remarkable change that made in that area, and some of those trees...most of the trees are still there this day. But I look at...I look at the \$200,000, and then, and it's a small amount that would...it would take to do some good to replace some of the trees. You know once in awhile, and as working with trees when I was younger, it...you know, you have to prune trees occasionally also to make that tree a better tree, and sometimes Mother Nature takes it in her own hands and does that pruning too. She does it in a little different matter than...or different fashion than what a person who works with trees all the time would do with a pruning shears, but, nevertheless, does get the job done. If you look over here at the parking lot where most of us park our cars, you can see it does...it looked terrible after that storm. But with a little trimming, it really doesn't look that bad right now, and I don't know as those trees are going to die.